

PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



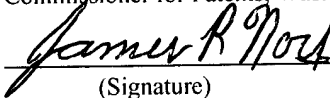
In re application of: Patrick K. Egan et al. : Date: June 8, 2000
Group Art Unit: 2831 : IBM Corporation
Examiner: K. Cuneo : Intellectual Property Law
Serial No.: 09/074,213 : Dept. 917, Bldg. 006-1
Filed: May 7, 1998 : 3605 Highway 52 North
Title: BACKPLANE POWER : Rochester, MN 55901
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

EXPRESS MAIL Mailing Number EK595507730 US
Date of Deposit: June 8, 2000

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited
with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post
Office To Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the
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Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231



(Signature)

James R. Nock

(Attorney Name)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWING

Subject to the approval of the Examiner, please enter the amendments to the
figures: No new matter has been added over the specification, claims and drawings
originally provided.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Figure 1

Please extend the pointers from reference numbers 18b and 18h as indicated.
Please delete the circles and extensions from layer 14hi as indicated.

Figure 2

Please insert a rectangular block with a lead line to a reference numeral 28, as shown.

Figure 3

Please insert a rectangular block with a lead line to a reference numeral 28, as shown.

Figure 4

Please insert and extend the edges of the powerplane 40 so the lower right-hand portion of the figure is not cut off.

Please delete the black shading from the impedance variations 42 at the left third of the page and at the far load locations 22 towards the top of the page, without disclaimer or prejudice.

Please insert lead lines from the reference numeral 20 to the holes on powerplane as indicated.

Please insert lead lines from the reference numeral 22 to the holes on powerplane as indicated.

Please insert lead lines from the reference numeral 30 to the holes on powerplane as indicated.

REMARKS

With respect to Figure 1:

the pointer from reference numbers 18b and 18h now reach their destinations;

the extraneous material from layer 14hi at the bottom of the page has been deleted;

reference number 12a is shown slightly above the center of the page;

references to pins in Figure 1 has been changed in the specification at applicable occurrences to references to locations.

With respect to Figure 2:

a rectangular block, a pointer, and a reference numeral 28 has been added representing connector straps or pads, wiring networks, etc. as described in the specification at page 4, lines 23-24 and in claim 11.

With respect to Figure 3:

a rectangular block, a pointer, and a reference numeral 28 has been added representing connector straps or pads, wiring networks, etc. as described in the specification at page 4, lines 23-24 and in claim 11.

With respect to Figure 4:

the edges of the powerplane 40 have been inserted and extended so that the lower right-hand portion of the figure is not cut off;

the coloring of the impedance variations and load locations of Figure 4 has been deleted. In doing so, however, Applicants maintain that the impedance variations 42 are not limited to the geometric openings presented but can be openings of different shapes and/or material of different resistivity than that of powerplane 40;

the specification has been amended to reflect the element and the reference numeral 50 now reference a socket module;

pointer lines have been inserted from reference numerals 20, 22, and 30 to the different holes on the powerplane;

the Examiner states that it is unclear what the shapes of 20 and 22 are. Respectfully, the specification states that the source locations (30) and load locations (20 and 22) be capable of receiving pins. The shape of the pins is not disclosed in the specification and it is known in the art that connector pins come in all kinds of shapes; circular, oval, octagonal, flat, etc. Applicants respectfully decline to limit the invention to a particular rendition and maintain that the source locations and the load locations are the same part as referenced in Figures 2, 3, and 4.

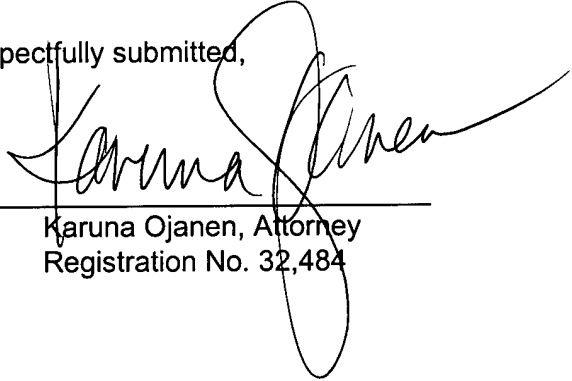
With respect to Figures 2, 3, and 4:

the Examiner has requested that the reference numerals 40 for powerplanes, the reference numerals 42 for the impedance variations, and the reference numerals for the source locations 30 and load locations 20, 22 be changed for each embodiment. Respectfully, applicants submit that the drawings comply with 35 U.S.C. §113; with 37 CFR 1.74 which states that “[w]hen there are drawings, there shall be a brief description of the several views of the drawings and the detailed description of the invention shall refer to the different views by specifying the numbers of the figures and to the different parts by use of reference letters or numerals (preferably the latter); and with the MPEP at 608.02(p)(4) which states “[t]he same part of an invention appearing in more than one view of the drawing must always be designated by the same reference character, and the same reference character must never be used to designate different parts. A powerplane 40 has been defined as a conductive layer for providing particular direct current (DC) voltage levels to the functional units. Page 4, lines 17-19. Impedance variations 42 throughout the drawings represent that which “balances the resistance of the powerplane 40 between source locations 20 and load locations 20, 22 as described herein below.” (Specification at page 5, lines 9-10). Impedance variations 42 may be circular or noncircular, and the location of impedance variations 42 need not run substantially parallel to the load locations. (Specification at page 7, lines 6 through 22). Source locations 30 and load locations 20, 22 are defined as an array of locations which can vary for coupling the backplane 10 to functional units. Page 4, line 23 to page 5, line 25. Respectfully, source locations 30, load locations 20 and 22, powerplanes 40, and the impedance variations 42 represent the same part throughout the application regardless of the embodiment; thus, the figures are in compliance with the law, the regulations, and the policy of the patent office.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any comparison fees associated with this submission to Deposit Account number 09-0465. A duplicate copy of this letter is provided.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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